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| EXAMINER KASHNIKOW, ERIK | | | | |
| ART UNIT 1794 | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ADIPFDD@bipc.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/520,255

Applicant(s)

KIKUCHI, HIDEYO

Examiner

ERIK KASHNIKOV

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/23/09.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 12-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/22)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 7, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz et al. (US 5,993,593) in view of Katayama et al. (US 6,044,628) and Aoki 4,007,078).
3. In regards to claim 7 Swartz et al. teach a multilayer sheet (column 9 lines 42-45) comprising an outermost layer of thermoplastic resin (column 9 lines 20-23) wherein a metal containing ink is printed on specific areas where a seal is to be formed by induction heating (column 7 lines 35-50). Swartz et al. further teach that imprint a design directly on the device, while it is silent regarding the imprinting being on the outer surface, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would realize that putting the imprint on the outer surface would make it easier for someone to see marketing on the package or information as to what is contained in said package.
4. In regards to claims 16 and 17 absent a showing of criticality with respect to "concentration of metal filler in the ink" (a result effective variable), it would have been ok. Obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to adjust the "concentration of the metal filler in the ink" through routine experimentation to

values, including those presently claimed in order to achieve "an ink with appropriate conductive properties that can seal the polymer layers effectively". It has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

5. As stated above Swartz et al. teach packages formed by induction heating wherein ink is printed only on the areas that need sealing, however they are silent with regards to webs being formed, delivering web formed layers successively as well as forming a longer web support layer.
6. In regards to claims 7 Katayama et al. teach a process for forming food packages (column 1 lines 7-14). Katayama et al. teach a method for forming webs wherein a plurality of support layer is wound around a roll (column 5 lines 14-18). Katayama et al. teach that the seals at the ends may be formed by induction heating involving a metal foil layer at specific zones (column 6 lines 24-36). Katayama et al. teach that the web like material may comprise a variety of layers which may act as a support layer and an inner polyolefin layer (column 1 lines 45-50).
7. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would be motivated to modify the invention of Swartz et al. with that of Katayama et al. because the invention of Katayama et al. would offer a reduced amount of and possible elimination of defects in the film, and as an extension of that the final products (column 2 lines 58-63).
8. As disclosed above Swartz et al. and Katayama et al. teach packages formed by induction heating wherein ink is printed only on the areas that need sealing, webs being

formed, delivering web formed layers successively however they are silent with regards forming a longer web support layer.

9. Aoki et al. teach a method of continuously forming a film strip of thermoplastic resin to form packaging materials (column 1 lines 6-12).

10. In regards to claim 7 Aoki et al. teach sealing a trailing edge of one strip to a leading edge of another strip (claim 1).

11. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would be motivated to modify the invention of Swartz et al. and Katayama with that of Aoki et al. because the invention of Aoki et al. offers increased product production efficiency and there for an economic benefit.

12. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz et al. (US 5,993,593) in view of Katayama et al. (US 6,044,628) and Aoki (4,007,078) and Ehrreich (US 4,683,082).

13. As stated above Swartz et al., Katayama and Aoki et al. teach packages formed by induction heating wherein ink is printed only on the areas that need sealing, however they are silent with regards to the type of metal in the ink as well as the form of the metal.

14. In regards to claims 13-15 Ehrreich teaches conductive inks which comprise silver flakes (claim 8 and column 8 lines 54-60).

15. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would be motivated to modify the invention of Swartz et al., Aoki et al. and Katayama et al. with that of

Ehrreich et al. because the invention of Ehrreich et al. offers the ability to be stored for a long period of time without decay of the conductive ink, specifically increases in resistivity (column 2 lines 20-25).

16. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz et al. (US 5,993,593) in view of Katayama et al. (US 6,044,628) Aoki 4,007,078) and Xiao (US 6,322,620).

17. As stated above Swartz et al. Katayama et al. and Aoki et al. teach packages formed by induction heating wherein ink is printed only on the areas that need sealing, however they are silent with regards to the type of metal in the ink.

18. In regards to claims 12 and 13 Xiao teaches that the metals found in conductive inks are often silver coated aluminum (claim 4).

19. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would be motivated to modify the invention of Swartz et al., Aoki et al and Katayama et al. with that of Xiao because the invention of Xiao offers advantageous shelf life and curing and drying time and temperatures (column 2 lines 10-17).

Response to Arguments

20. Applicant's arguments, see arguments, filed 10/20/09, with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 112 2nd paragraph rejection of the claims have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112 2nd of the claims has been withdrawn.
21. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ERIK KASHNIKOW whose telephone number is (571)270-3475. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00PM EST (Second Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Erik Kashnikow
Examiner
Art Unit 1794

/Rena L. Dye/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794